

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed December 22, 2004 has been reviewed. Claims now in the application are the following: 1-9. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to admit this amendment for the reasons set out below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Payne et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,975,203). The Examiner contended that claim 1 did not distinguish the roller chain and the gripper chain as being two distinct structures. Claim 1 has therefore been amended to add the limitation that "the roller chain and the gripper chain are two distinct chains." It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 obviates the Examiner's rejection and Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw his rejection and pass claim 1 to issue.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 6-9.

The Examiner objected to claims 2-5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2-5 depend or ultimately depend from claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 obviates the Examiner's objection and Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to pass claims 2-5 to issue.

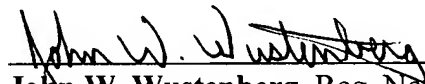
SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above. Therefore, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider the application and allow all claims now in the application. This amendment is intended to be a complete response to the Final Office Action mailed December 22, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

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Applicant

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